# SERIES: NO COMPROMISE—DARE TO BE A DANIEL LESSON 1—DANIEL DETERMINED IN HIS HEART...

#### Bible Reference: Daniel 1:8-21

**Key Verse**: Psalm 119:11—"I have hidden your word in my heart, that I might not sin against you."

#### **OVERVIEW**

-Introduction Video -Bible Story -Key Verse -Prayer Part -Small Group Activities

### **ITEMS NEEDED:**

-Signs that say: King Nebuchadnezzar, Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, Azariah, Daniel became Belteshazzar, Hananiah became Shadrach, Mishael became Meshach, Azariah became Abednego

-Signs on yellow paper that say: I have hidden / your word/ in my heart, / that I might not sin / against you.

#### -1 bean bag

-Signs for: The Lord's Prayer sign

-Each small group will need vegetables and toothpicks

#### **BIBLE LESSON**

(Based on Daniel 1:1-20)

SAY: Good morning. We are so glad that you're here today. Today we're beginning a new series called "No Compromise: Dare to be a Daniel."

ASK: **What does the word "compromise" mean?** (To compromise in the way we're talking, means to give in to a way of living that you know is wrong.)

SAY: When we say, "No Compromise," we're saying, "Live for Jesus without compromise." Or, "Live for Jesus totally—Do what you know is right without giving in to anything that you know is wrong."

#### CONTROL TOOL

Anytime I say, "No Compromise!" I want you to say, "Live for Jesus!" Practice a few times. If you want have a boys verses girls competition to see who can be louder.

REPEAT after me: I can do all things through Christ who gives me strength—Philippians 4:13.

SAY: God gives you the strength to do everything that He calls you to do and God gives you the strength to live for Jesus.

RAISE your hand...if you think it's EASY to live for Jesus. RAISE your hand...if you think it's HARD to live for Jesus. RAISE your hand...if you think it's NEITHER EASY NOR HARD to live for Jesus. SAY: As you get older, every one of you will face tough choices and tough temptations. Sometimes you'll face situations where it would be easier to go along with what everyone else is doing. That's the reason we want you to pay special attention to today's Bible story.

#### **Bible Story**

*Choose five volunteers—Tell them that you will give them their parts as you tell the story.* 

SAY: Over 500 years before Jesus was born, God's people lived in a land called Judah. But because of their continual disobedience against God, God judged them for their sins. A king named "Nebuchadnezzar" (give one volunteer the *Nebuchadnezzar* sign) came from the land of Babylon and took control of Judah. God gave Jerusalem and Judah into his hands and this king took items from the Temple back to Babylon. But he also took something else...

# ASK: What else do you think King Nebuchadnezzar took back to Babylon? (*Take a few answers.*)

SAY: He also took some young men. Listen to what the Bible says about it...

### **Read Daniel 1:3-5 from your Bible**

SAY: The king's goal was to take these young men and to educate them to be Babylonian leaders to serve in his court—to train them to forget about Jerusalem, their families, their heritage and even their beliefs about God and to adopt new ways of living and to serve him.

# Ask your Nebuchadnezzar volunteer to go to the side-wall. Put the other four volunteers against the opposite wall.

SAY: King Nebuchadnezzar moved these young men from Judah 800 miles away to Babylon. (*Move your volunteers to be with Nebuchadnezzar*.) They left behind everything they knew—their parents, their homes, everything—and they were taken to a city that was very different than anything they would have known in Judah. This city worshipped other gods and had a different way of living.

SAY: Most of these young men were probably between the ages of 13 and 17.

# ASK: **How do you think these young men felt?** (*Take a few answers*) **How would you feel?**

# ASK: Do you think these young men were mad at God because something terrible had happened to them?

SAY: Among these young men that were taken, were four young men about whom we will be learning this month. Their Hebrew names were: Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah. *(Give these signs to your volunteers.)* 

SAY: But as part of helping them to become Babylonian, they were given Babylonian names.
-Daniel became Belteshazzar
-Hananiah became Shadrach
-Mishael became Meshach
-Azariah became Abednego
(Give each student a sign with his new identity.)

SAY: The Bible tells us clearly what Daniel decided to do...Daniel "determined not to defile himself" (Dan. 1:8).

ASK: **What does "defile" mean?** (To be made dirty or unclean. Daniel was determined to keep his life pure—to live for God with no compromise.)

### Read Daniel 1:8-10 from your Bible

### ASK: What was Daniel's request?

# ASK: If he could have the best food in the kingdom, why do you think Daniel wanted to eat vegetables and water?

SAY: In the Old Testament God had given His people, living under the Law, certain food laws about what they could and couldn't eat and about how certain foods were to be prepared. The foods that Daniel and his friend received were probably not prepared according to these laws. It was also a common custom of a Babylonian king to first offer his food and drink to their gods. If Daniel and the others took part in these foods, it would indicate that they believed and participated in the worship of these false gods as well.

ASK: **What was the chief official's response?** (He was afraid that they would look less appealing and this could endanger his life with the king.)

### ASK: If this had happened to you, what would you have done?

SAY: Daniel gave a great solution. Listen to what he suggested...

#### **Read Daniel 1:11-16 from your Bible**

#### ASK: Do you think God blessed Daniel and his friends for their obedience?

SAY: Yes, God blesses obedience. Listen to the rest of the story.

# Read Daniel 1:17-20 from your Bible

SAY: These four young men continued to obey God—They could have compromised but Daniel was determined to live pure and right. You can do the same.

CONTROL TOOL Leader: "No Compromise!" Students: "Live for Jesus!"

REPEAT after me: I can do all things through Christ who gives me strength—Philippians 4:13.

SAY: Let's give our volunteers a hand for helping us.

#### **KEY VERSE**

Be sure to set out the pieces of yellow paper before this part begins...

# ASK: What is something you own that is very important to you? (Take several answers.)

# ASK: How do you protect or take care of these important things?

# ASK: How would you feel if someone took them from you?

SAY: We guard and protect those things that are important to us.

Choose 1 volunteer and give him a bean bag.

SAY: Let's pretend that this bean bag is a very important treasure. **How would you guard it?** 

SAY: Now let's pretend that in a moment everyone in this room was going to try to take your treasure away. What would you do? How would you protect it?

SAY: But what if suddenly the door opened and the biggest, strongest man in our church came into our classroom to be your bodyguard and to keep your treasure safe. **Would that help?** 

SAY: God has given us a "guard"—something very powerful that can protect us from doing bad things.

# ASK: What do you think this "guard" is?

Let's find out... Choose six volunteers (who are good listeners)

SAY: In this room there are five bright yellow pieces of paper. Each piece has part of today's key verse on it. They are lying all round the room. Your job is find these and to bring them to me. But you only have one minute...ready, set, go!

If a student has trouble find one, give a hint. If the time runs out and one or two of them haven't been found, go ahead and bring everyone back and let your group try to figure out the missing parts of the verse. Then retrieve the missing pages.

Once all the parts of the verse are in order, have the kids line up in the correct order and read the verse to your students. Have them repeat the verse after you.

Turn around one piece of the verse (so that it is hidden) and have the students repeat the verse again, still saying the hidden part. Then turn another part of the verse backwards. Repeat the verse again. Continue this until they are saying the entire verse without seeing any words.

# ASK: Does anyone know where this verse is found in the Bible? (Psalm 119:11)

SAY: Hold up your Bibles if you brought them today...God gave us the Bible as a guide to help keep us away from sin. It is powerful and is a guard for our hearts. But notice that the verse doesn't say, "I have carried Your Word in my hand..." Or, "I have carried Your Word to my church..." It says, I have hidden Your Word in my heart."

SAY: God doesn't just want us to own the Bible, or to take it with us to church—God wants us to know His Word and to put it in our hearts. When you put God's Word in your heart, it becomes a guard for you, to protect you against doing bad things.

KEY: Daniel and his friend kept themselves pure. They overcame temptation and God blessed them. God's Word is the greatest tool you have to overcome temptation too.

CONTROL TOOL Leader: "No Compromise!" Students: "Live for Jesus!"

### PRAYER PART—"Our Father"

Choose 2 volunteers to hold the "Lord's Prayer" sign. Ask your kids to say it with you.

SAY: We've been saying the "Lord's Prayer" for several weeks now but have you noticed to whom Jesus prayed?

### ASK: Who did Jesus pray to in this prayer? (Our Father.)

#### ASK: Is there anyone else that we should pray to?

SAY: When Daniel and the others were taken to Babylon, they were taken to a land where people prayed to many different "gods."

ASK: **Are there other gods besides our God?** (No, there is only one true God. People have always worshipped all sorts of things—even cats and dogs and birds and the sun and rivers and even bugs, but there are no other REAL gods besides ours.)

KEY: As you grow older you'll meet people who will tell you that they pray to Mary, Jesus' mother, or to well-known Christians who lived long ago, or to the disciples or even to dead people in their families. But there is only One to whom we should pray—*Our prayers only go to God*. Jesus gave us this prayer as an example of how to pray and notice that He was very clear to whom He was speaking.

SAY: Daniel and his friend kept themselves pure in what they ate. They also, as you will see in the next few weeks, kept praying to and following the only true God.

CONTROL TOOL Leader: "No Compromise!" Students: "Live for Jesus!"

#### PRAY

SAY: Everybody bow your heads and close your eyes. Now with your heads bowed and your eyes closed, before we pray together, remember what the Bible said about Daniel—that he had determined to keep doing what was right. If this is how you feel too, take a moment to tell God about how you want to live for Him. Then I'm going to call out some of today's prayer requests and as I do, I want you to pray silently for them. (*Pause...Call out some of the prayer requests and then pray.*)

#### **Dismiss to Small Groups**

SAY: Right now it is time for our small groups, so I'm going to dismiss you one row at a time.

Dismiss rows of chairs to the tables in the rooms. Give them specific directions where to go.

# The "Daniel Determined in His Heart" Snack Craft

# SMALL GROUPS

SAY: Since vegetables were a big part of our lesson today, we're going to make it a big part of our activities too.

# LESSON ACTIVITY—Veggies, Veggies, & More Veggies

On this Sunday we will be providing your class with some vegetable trays, cups and water. Below are some activities that you can use to reinforce today's lesson:

# **Activity Options:**

(1) Let kids sample different kinds of vegetables while you have a conversation using some or all of the Discussion Questions below.

(2) We will also be providing your class with toothpicks. See if your kids can use the vegetables that they don't (or won't) eat to make a vegetable kid. Let them give their kids names and then use them as pretend people with some of the discussion questions below i.e., If "Veggie-Boy" were a student your age, what would he be like if he decided not to defile himself?

(3) Use some of the vegetables to paint a picture of ways your students can guard their hearts and do what is right. (*If you plan to use paint, you might also want to use smocks with the younger children*.)

(4) Talk about making a vegetable mix. What ingredients (whether you have them or not) would they put in? What would they leave out? What ingredients does God want in their lives (i.e., prayer, hiding God's Word in their hearts, etc)? What does God want them to leave out?

#### OLDER STUDENTS

(1) Have a vegetable tossing competition. What veggies can they toss to a partner and the partner catch in his mouth? *Spiritual Applications*: (a) Talk about having a target in life to keep yourself pure. (b) Not all the vegetables are able to be caught because they don't all fit in your mouth. There a lot of things that don't fit in a Christian's life too. What ingredients does God want in their lives (i.e., prayer, hiding God's Word in their hearts, etc)? What does God want them to leave out?

#### **Discussion Questions**

Below are questions that you can discuss with your students before, after or while participating in today's activity:

-Who likes vegetables?

- -How would you feel if you only had vegetables and water to eat? (Daniel and his friends did this for several years!)
- -Would you be tempted to eat the food from the kings table, even if you knew doing so was wrong?
- -How does this make you feel about Daniel and his friends staying so faithful and not defiling themselves?

-What would a student your age be like if he "determined not to defile himself"?—We're not talking about vegetables now but daily obedience.

-What do you think this student would watch on TV?

-Are there things that he wouldn't watch on TV?

-How do you think he would treat others?

-How do you think other students would feel about him?

-How would you compare to this student?

**OLDER STUDENTS** 

-If someone offered you a hundred dollars to do something wrong, would you do it? A thousand dollars? Ten-thousand dollars? How far would you be willing to go to keep doing what is right?

-What if it cost you a job in the future? Or a friend? Or a family member? Or a guy or girl that you really, really like? Again, how far would you be willing to go to keep doing what is right?

**Prayer**—Take prayer requests and pray with your students.